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APRIL 4, 2024 | VOL. 43 | NO. 9 | FREE EVERY THURSDAY!

# EUGENE Weekly

# WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DAMN PAPER?

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about the embezzlement,  
our comeback and our plans  
for the future



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## OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

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NEWS AND CULTURE REPORTER Emerson Brady  
CALENDAR EDITOR Brianna Murschel  
COPY EDITOR Dan Buckwalter  
ARTS EDITOR EMERITUS Bob Keefer  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR Anita Johnson  
INTERIM PUBLISHER Mark Zusman  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS  
Ester Barkai, Dan Bryant, Tom Coffin, Ayisha Elliott, Henry Houston, Will Kennedy, Chandra LeGue, Rick Levin, Susan Palmer, Taylor Perse, William Sullivan, Dorothy Velasco, John Zerzan  
HAPPENING PEOPLE Paul Neevel  
INTERNS Melvin Bravo, Darien Greene, Faheem Kahn  
CATALYST JOURNALISM PROJECT INTERNS  
Eliza Aronson, Sophia Cossette, Bentley Freeman, Tristin Hoffman, Emma J Nelson, Eve Weston, Amelia Winkelman

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ART DIRECTOR/PRODUCTION MANAGER  
Todd Cooper  
GRAPHIC ARTIST Chelsea Lovejoy  
TECHNOLOGY/WEBMASTER James Bateman

### advertising

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### business

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letters

YES, 4J STUDENTS ARE WORTH IT

I strongly believe Eugene voters should jump at the chance to renew the 4J local option levy. When I graduated from North Eugene High School in 2012, the persistent effect of budget cuts had already been weighing on student morale for years. It is hard to describe how difficult it is to lose a great teacher, or an amazing band ensemble, simply because of shrinking educational resources. When this happens, it is deeply deflating to see our public institutions fall short of the promise we repeatedly make to young people, that education represents a robust path to opportunity.

The May 21 ballot is a chance to weigh in on multiple issues related to effective use of public funds. Amidst uncertainty around stadiums and sports teams, maintaining current levels of funding for schools should be a sure thing. Our city alone cannot fund our schools, but we can continue to do our part while advocating for a stronger state and federal commitment. Voting yes ends the message that our students, teachers and classified staff deserve at least as much as Eugene has committed to them previously, and not a penny less.

Thomas Hiura  
Eugene

PIERCY FOR FRAGALA

I'm supporting Lisa Fragala for state representative in House District 8 and encourage you to do the same. Here's why:

I've known Fragala for years as she has tirelessly served on the Lane Community College board to support public education and the broader community. She has a strong teaching background and is well educated in environmental sciences with a passion for working to reduce climate impact and build community resilience.

She has supported many good candidates with her grassroots activism and collaborated in raising up women to run for office.

Fragala fully grasps the crises we face in housing needs, shelter and local healthcare, and will tackle these issues from day one. She understands good jobs and strong labor protections serve us all. She works well with others and fully understands that politics at its best is not what one individual does or accomplishes but is about what we do together so that all can flourish.

Much as we all will miss Rep. Paul Holvey, I will be proud to have Fragala serve us and know that Holvey supports her as well. Democracy requires the diligence Fragala will bring. Our future depends on it.

Kitty Piercy  
State representative  
Former Eugene mayor

NON-DIVISIVE BASEBALL

In his March 28 letter, Steve Hering twists fellow letter writer Joe Blakely's perspective on the Emeralds stadium question into something it wasn't, in order to belittle, vilify and dismiss it.

EUGENE WEEKLY.COM

So I'll start by fully validating Blakely's actual point: Having taken my kids to Ems games at the old Civic Stadium, I've personally experienced the community-building benefits of coming together with others who span the political, social, economic and racial breadth of our community, to watch a somewhat ridiculous game, eat indulgent food, drink a soda or beer, and chat with the often very different stranger next to me while watching our kids play together. The opposite of divisive.

This argument feels divisive because we value different things. But it needn't be divisive, either; it's what healthy families and communities do to sort out big questions and important decisions. Some of us highly value community building activities, others highly value fiscal conservatism, still others highly value a quiet neighborhood. To expect us all to have the same primary value is to live in a fantasy world.

What is divisive is treating each other with disrespect by belittling, vilifying and dismissing the other as somehow wrong, defective, the enemy.

Peter Straton  
Eugene

GOOD SPORTS

Let's be good sports  
I wanted to reply to a couple of letters about the new Ems stadium.

I have lived in the West Jefferson neighborhood for over 25 years, and I am in favor of building this stadium. I do understand the reluctance of others to this project, and I welcome a healthy debate about it. Can we please keep the lying and misinformation out of it? Dave Hollingsworth, in his March 28 letter, is really inflating the cost of things in a way that might even make Honest Don blush.

Hollingsworth is claiming "the cheapest seats are usually \$39 each, not including the \$11 service fee." No so. Week-day seats are ten bucks. Weekend seats will run you about \$15. You can sit in the bleachers for \$10. The service fee, if you buy them online, is \$4. There are \$8 dollar tickets for seniors and military. There are many promotions. You can get a burger, a beer and a baseball game for around 20 bucks some nights.

I want to see this stadium built in my neighborhood. I'm willing to listen to other arguments, though, and then decide what I think is best for my community. I like baseball and I think the game brings diverse groups of people together, bridges generations and can teach things like how to be a good sport; in other words, how to work hard towards your goal (often with others from diverse backgrounds) but not cheat, to be graceful when you are successful, and how to fail well. Lessons we all need.

Ron Constable  
Eugene

TRUMPY EMS ACCUSATIONS

First of all, I have gone to some games. I believe the price that I paid last year for reserve seats was about \$16. And, food

### Jonesin' Crossword

BY MATT JONES  
©2023 JONESIN' CROSSWORDS (EDITOR@JONESINCROSSWORDS.COM)

**Across**

1. "Come Away With Me" singer Jones  
6. Declines, as support  
10. Former Queen of Jordan (and a hint to what's missing from 21-Across)  
14. Final Greek letter  
15. "Consarn it!"  
16. Lhasa \_\_\_\_ (breed from Tibet)  
17. Paris 2024 prize  
18. Taunting remark  
19. "Buenos \_\_\_\_!"  
20. Oh's predecessors  
21. Investment returns not realized because of factors like expenses and fees  
23. "Insecure" Emmy nominee \_\_\_\_ Rae  
26. After-dinner party  
27. Like many eruptions  
31. Voters' choices

32. Best case  
33. Playground equipment  
35. Method  
38. Word of caution  
39. Most high school students  
40. Nursery rhyme trio  
41. Gallery work  
42. Peek at the answers, say  
43. Jordanian ruins site  
44. Three in Italy  
45. Simultaneously  
47. Of a heart chamber  
50. Cookie with a 2024 "Space Dunk" variety  
51. Stank up the joint  
54. Wayside lodging  
57. "Take \_\_\_\_ from me ..."  
58. In the thick of  
59. "We can relate"  
61. Prefix for rail or chrome  
62. Chess play  
63. Gambling mecca near

Hong Kong  
64. Former Domino's Pizza mascot (and a hint to what's missing from 51-Across)  
65. Small wallet bills  
66. "... I'll eat \_\_\_\_!"

**Down**

1. Alaska gold rush city (and a hint to what's missing from 3-Down)  
2. "The \_\_\_\_" (1976 Gregory Peck horror film)  
3. Didn't say anything  
4. Palindromic Ottoman official  
5. "2001" computer  
6. Outer limit  
7. Runny French cheese  
8. Rum cakes  
9. Banned substances  
10. Lowest points  
11. Speak your mind  
12. "August: \_\_\_\_ County" (Meryl Streep movie)  
13. Monica's brother on "Friends"  
21. Enthusiast  
22. Pool ball with a yellow stripe  
24. Jazz vocal style  
25. \_\_\_\_ Paradise ("On the Road" narrator)  
27. "Livin' La \_\_\_\_ Loca" (Ricky Martin hit)  
28. Product of pungency  
29. "Understood"  
30. Golf shoe gripper  
34. Enjoying  
35. Smoothly, as a successful plan  
36. Real estate developer's unit  
37. Rookie of the \_\_\_\_  
39. Destination in "Pee-wee's Big Adventure"  
40. Dole (out)  
42. Baby's night spot  
43. KPH part  
44. Camera mount  
46. Amount of gunk  
47. "Star Wars" droid, familiarly  
48. Neighbor of a Tobagonian, informally  
49. Citrus with a zest  
51. Kendrick Lamar Pulitzer-winning album  
52. "\_\_\_\_ Talkin'" (Bee Gees #1 hit)  
53. Pindario poems  
55. Hurricane-tracking agcy.  
56. In-\_\_\_\_ Burger (and a hint to what's missing from 35-Down)  
59. Steak-\_\_\_\_ (frozen beef brand)  
60. Speak

ANSWERS TO LAST PUZZLE

PETCO COMBOS  
INALL CORALINE  
MCKIDD STOKEDUP  
LOOSEFIT EGEST  
STAR DEU  
SCI STATE NIP DAN  
MADETHENEXTMOVE  
UNCLENCHYOURJAW  
RARECOLLECTIONS  
FLY ATA DLOSTY  
PES DORT  
AIOLI SPECIALK  
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and drinks were reasonable. (I have never paid anywhere near \$75.00 per head.)

Second, the Ducks facility was *not* paid for by taxpayers; donors built it. ("PK Park," after all.) True that they don't pay property taxes.

And none of the other statements are backed up by any evidence — it's all opinion.

I understand that there can be varying opinions about the potential of a new stadium. That's fine.

You know what I think — it appears that *Eugene Weekly* is against the stadium and is willing to print "alternative facts" to obfuscate and confuse the voters. Dave Hollingsworth and you seem to have an agenda.

Straight out of the Trumpian playbook. So this makes you no better than a Trumper.

(I wish that this was an April Fool's joke — but, apparently, you consider the voters the fools?)

Shame on you!

Gary DeCamp  
Eugene

*Editor's Note: Conflating a fact checking error made by a community newspaper without a staff sportsball writer with Donald Trump? Interesting choice! We corrected the error with an online editor's note as soon as EMs General Manager Allan Benavides called it to our attention, and regret the error.*

ACQUISITIONS, MERGERS AND CLOSURES

It started nationally years ago, but now it is in Oregon with a bang. First, Trillium, a coordinated care organization in Lane County for some of Oregon's

one million-plus Medicaid folks, was bought by Centene, a nationwide for profit insurance company. Then PeaceHealth closed its birthing center. Then three years ago OPTUM/United Health Insurance bought out Oregon Medical Group. Last December PeaceHealth closed Eugene's only emergency hospital, with only three months' notice to the community. Recently, OPTUM/United Health Insurance were approved by the Oregon Health Authority to buy Corvallis Clinic.

Now with doctors and providers leaving, Oregon Medical Group patients are being given the boot. OMG will no longer care for them. They need to seek another health provider. See Oregonlive.com March 27 article. OMG Southtowne clinic is closing.

Your health care needs are being bought by larger and larger corporations. Health care is being corporatized. This means their profit is the first priority, your health is a means for that profit, and as such it is treated as a commodity. Studies have shown that with each acquisition, merger or closure, services decrease, i.e. longer wait times, less time with the provider, more insurance denials and the costs increases.

Many of us are involved in creating a new pathway for healthcare. We can no longer trust the corporations to provide our healthcare needs. I urge you all to visit our site Hcao.org and be part of the movement for a simpler, comprehensive, universal health care program.

Lou Sinniger  
HCAO Lane County Chapter Chair  
Elmira, Oregon



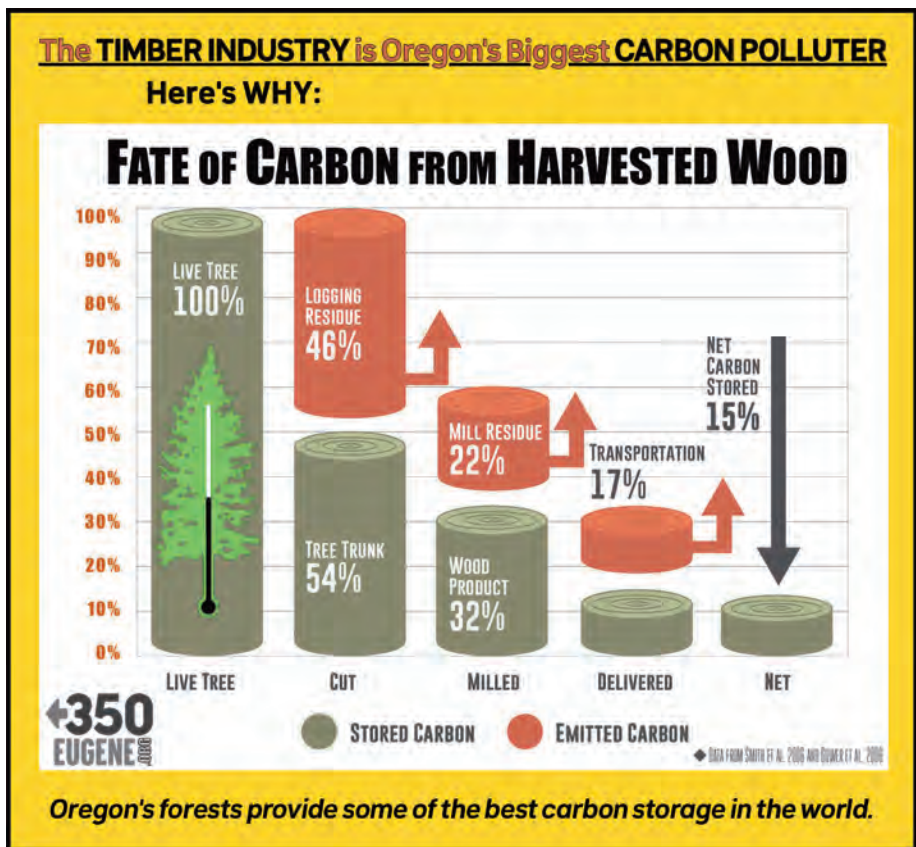
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**A meeting of the Budget Committee of the  
LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
will be held on April 11, 2024.**

The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.  
via Zoom video conference at  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88411522084?pwd=0xlvi-uom2iXcc4YTbsFVCIY5micL82.1>,  
Meeting ID: 884 1152 2084, Passcode: 807587.

The purpose of the meeting is to review the revised FY24 agency budget. This is a public meeting where deliberations of the committee will take place.

A copy of the revised budget document may be inspected or obtained at LCOG, 859 Willamette Street, Suite 500, Eugene, Oregon, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The budget document will also be available on the LCOG website at [LCOG.org](https://lco.org).

VIEWPOINT BY PAUL BODIN

# The Voices of Climate Change

A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE  
IS APRIL 10 AT THE EUGENE PUBLIC LIBRARY

What makes the crisis of climate change so unique and compelling is the diversity of voices, past and present, that compete for the public's attention.

There are the voices of alarm coming from journalists and scientists. "We are deep in an emergency," says Rebecca Solnit, a longtime climate and human rights activist. "The word emergency itself comes from emerge, to exit, to leave behind, separate yourself from, so an emergency is when you exit from the familiar and the stable."

"We are now doing that on a planetary scale, exiting the stability and reliability of the delicately turned systems of seasons, weather, relations between species, even the shape of the world for the past 10,000 years, as oceans draw new coastlines, lakes dry up, glaciers melt, and natural and human communities shift and migrate. It is an exodus into the unknown, and our task is to make a home there for ourselves and for the nature from which we were never separate."

There are the voices of songwriters and poets who dare us to jump off the treadmill of consumerism and consumption. Country singer Delbert McClinton wrote "Too Much Stuff" in 1997 and his lyrics ring true today: "Big house, big car, back seat, full bar / Houseboat won't float, bank won't tote the note / Too much stuff, there's just too much stuff / It'll hang you up dealing with too much stuff."

There are Indigenous peoples who adopt an interdependent view that acknowledges our connections not only to the people and living beings around us, but also to generations who have come before and will come after us. In one Indigenous worldview, every decision that we make as a society should be evaluated based on its impact seven generations into the future.

There are the voices of children and youth in Our Children's Trust, which represents young people by bringing legal actions, including climate lawsuits in all 50 states. Currently in Virginia, 12 plaintiffs are awaiting a decision from their state's Court of Appeals. These young people make the case that their government has violated their constitutional rights, including their rights to equal protection, dignity, liberty, health and safety, and public trust — which are all predicated on their right to a clean and healthful environment.

There are also voices of hope through innovation. Advances in green technology are resulting in cheaper and more accessible ways to harness solar and wind to create more sustainable energy systems that, just a generation ago, were considered expensive and unrealistic. In our own state, by 2035, all new passenger cars, SUVs and light-duty pickup trucks must either be battery electric or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

There are the voices of the environmental justice movement. Eugene's own Beyond Toxics is lobbying for the passage of three Oregon bills that would reduce electronic waste, support affordable and climate-resilient housing, and demand that the state disinvests from thermal coal companies.

There are the counter argument voices of fossil fuel companies like ExxonMobile that claim to be innovators of cleaner energy while they continue to make huge profits through the extraction of coal and natural gas. The U.S. is now the largest exporter of liquified natural gas in the world.

And let's not forget the voices that are never heard: Those who have experienced deadly wildfires in South America, Hawaii, Australia and Canada; those who have become migrants due to drought-driven food scarcity; and those who have experienced the ravages of extreme weather events. The majority of these voices come from poor and oppressed peoples who live in developing nations that have a low carbon footprint.

At 6 pm Wednesday, April 10, the Downtown Eugene Public Library will host a community discussion focusing on climate change. I will be joined by my colleague Caroline Lundquist in facilitating this discussion, which is free and open to the public at large. We hope that you can join us and add your own voice as we tackle one of the most pressing issues in our lifetime.

Paul Bodin is a retired public school teacher and past instructor in philosophy at the University of Oregon. He currently leads philosophical discussions with children in Eugene District 4J classrooms.



# One Bike at a Time

HOW E-BIKES HAVE CHANGED AND ARE CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE OF TRANSPORTATION IN EUGENE

By Josiah Pensado

**H**ave you ever been biking down 13th Avenue on a sunny day only to be passed by a jet engine of a bicycle on your left? Once you catch up to the cyclist in question at the red light on High Street, you see the battery by their crankshaft and watch the LED speedometer on their handlebars slowly go down from 18 miles per hour. The light changes to green, and the cyclists shoot out of the gate going east.

Was that a bird? A plane? No, it's an e-bike, the fastest-growing form of transportation taking over Eugene's streets.

The bicycle was first developed by inventor Karl Von Drais in 1817 and was known as the "swiftwalker." Despite sporting no pedals and its wooden frame, Von Drais' invention would pave the way for further innovations in cycling technology with the first commercially successful bike being the French "velocipede" in the 1860s.

However, just as bicycle technologies advanced, the invention of the automobile overshadowed that of the bicycle. But with the advent of e-bikes, the future of transportation may lie in its past.

E-bikes have been an ever-growing trend in Eugene and across the whole country as well. According to an industry report by market intelligence firm Mordor Intelligence, e-bike sales eclipsed the sales of electric cars in 2021 with an estimated 400,000 e-bikes being sold in the U.S., with that number only accounting for about one-third of all e-bike sales, the rest being sold via websites or directly from the owner.

Asked about the rise in the popularity of e-bikes, Rob Zako, executive director of Better Eugene Springfield Transportation (BEST), says that he has anecdotally seen a rise of e-bikes since the pandemic. "If there are fewer cars on the road than people to drive, you have less congestion. So car drivers should probably want people to be riding bikes more so that the roads aren't so crowded," Zako says.

He argues that the more e-bikes that are on the road the more benefit to both cyclists and those who drive cars; but, he adds, more e-bikes means more education.

BEST is planning on having its first transportation fair on May 5, to educate the public on what the city is planning with its bike infrastructure, transportation safety and ensuring everyone commutes responsibly. "Everybody has a responsibility to keep themselves and people around them safe, no matter how you get around," Zako says. "Whether you're running and you knock over an old woman or you're running or you're driving a big SUV and doing 90 miles an hour or running a stoplight."

E-bikes come in three classes, each with different speed and throttle types. Class 1 e-bike motors only engage when cyclists are pedaling and have a top speed of 20 miles per hour. Class 2 e-bikes have a pedal assist function as well as a throttle and also have a top speed of 20 miles per hour.

The final classification of e-bikes are class 3 e-bikes, which have a motor to assist in pedaling and a top speed



THOMAS HOLDEN DOES E-BIKE CONVERSIONS, CUSTOM E-BIKE BUILDS AND TRIKE CONVERSIONS THROUGH HIS COMPANY, CYCLIZED

Photo by Josiah Pensado

of 28 miles per hour. Class 3 e-bikes cannot travel in bike lanes or any shared-use path because they are not considered bicycles under Oregon law.

Class 1 and 2 e-bikes are subject to the same laws as regular bikes, but House Bill 4103, which has been passed into law by the Senate as of March 7, clarifies the three different classes as it is now a traffic violation for an individual under the age of 16 who doesn't have a license or provisional permit to operate class 2 and 3 e-bikes.

E-bikes are being made to fulfill many different functions, from daily commuters to cargo e-bikes and even e-bikes with a 600 lb. carrying capacity that is used to bow hunt elk.

With all these different types of e-bikes come different types of cyclists, which is something that J Lundin, owner of Eugene Electric Bikes, sees when he is selling e-bikes. "When it comes to the person that just wants to go fast, they basically want a motorcycle. That's kind of what they're looking for." At his store, Lundin says, "We say, 'Well, number one, here are the state laws and rules around cycling,' and we educate them on that real fast."

One benefit that Lundin says he sees in e-bikes would be that they get people who otherwise cannot physically ride a traditional bike back in the saddle. "There's physical limitations that these solve, and it gives people back a sense of life, a sense of ability," he says. "Most people's first transportation is their bike when they're five years old and they're rolling around the neighborhood." Then, Lundin continues, those people get a job, get a license and a car and "then they tend to be in the car world for forever. Their body is not what it was when they're in their 20s and 30s."

Thomas Holden, volunteer coordinator at Shift Community Cycles and founder of the e-bike conversion shop Cyclized, believes that he plays a role in how e-bikes are changing the cycling landscape in Eugene.

"I do see that even in four years e-bikes have proliferated. They're everywhere," Holden says. "You know, with that also comes their share of problems," so he says he tries to recommend to people that they get a class 1 e-bike and he tries to build class 1 e-bikes without throttles "because so many people are not really showing proper respect for the cycling ethic and that it's just pedaling." He adds, "You pedal along and not use it like a moped."

Since Holden can convert regular bicycles into e-bikes, he says it is very important to understand each cyclist's

needs and goals at an individual level to know how to program the mid drive motors he puts on the bikes.

"I feel an obligation to take care of them because they're not only my customers," he says, "they're my neighbors and they're part of this community."

EWEB offers a \$300 rebate to customers who want to purchase a new e-bike, but it is also valid towards converting regular bikes to e-bikes.

Eugene is constantly expanding its bike infrastructure, and with the ever-expanding projects comes adaptations from all modes of transportation — including, briefly, e-scooters. The most recent adaptation is the collaboration between Eugene, Superpedestrian and Cascadia Mobility.

Brodie Hylton, Cascadia Mobility executive director, says that when they introduced the bike share program in 2018, there were many long and drawn-out conversations with the community to ensure the program would go as smoothly as possible.

Hylton says the introduction of the e-scooter share program lacked much of that same engagement the bike share program saw, making it much more difficult for the community to properly adapt.

"I think one of the shortcomings of the scooter share pilot was that there wasn't any community outreach or engagement that was done," Hylton says. "We as the operator had to sort of roll with the punches" because Cascadia Mobility didn't solicit the vendor or establish the pilot program. Hylton hopes that Cascadia Mobility and the city of Eugene can adapt to the rise of e-bikes as well as learn from both programs.

Despite the challenges of the scooter share program, Hylton is still optimistic about the future of electric transportation, and would love to eventually expand the bike fleet with e-bikes as well as expand the geographic range of the bike-sharing program.

"The easier we can make it for more people to not drive a car and ride a light electric vehicle to take trips, the more healthy of a community I think we will be," he says. "So if you want to call it an e-bike takeover, I would say that is a really positive ambition for us as a community that e-bikes do take over."

More information on e-bikes can be found at [Eugene-or.gov/4665/E-Bikes](http://Eugene-or.gov/4665/E-Bikes).

# Sanctuary Law

LAWSUIT LEADS TO COTTAGE GROVE'S STEP TOWARDS SAFEGUARDING IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES FROM UNLAWFUL DETENTION

By Faheem Khan

A victory for local immigrant communities came earlier this year after the Lane County Circuit Court found the city of Cottage Grove was illegally using its police department's resources to collaborate with federal immigration agencies.

In February 2023, Rural Organizing Project and Community Alliance of Lane County filed a lawsuit alleging that the Cottage Grove Police Department had been violating the state's Sanctuary Promise Act, which was passed in 2021 to strengthen the existing sanctuary laws in the state.

They reported instances of police officers racially profiling and detaining community members who came to the police station to pay off fines for citations, unrelated to their immigrant status. The groups say that Cottage Grove has topped the list of Oregon communities impacted by detentions and deportations.

ROP is a state-wide nonprofit organization based in Cottage Grove whose mission is to build support and strengthen the equal worth of human dignity in all communities.

Sam Corti, ROP development coordinator, tells *Eugene Weekly*, "Once detained, names would be listed on a jail log and officers would profile detainees by their last names. They would then tip off federal immigration enforcement agencies."

Oregon was the first state in the nation to become a sanctuary state when it enacted a law in 1987 that prohib-

ited local law enforcement agencies and government bodies from assisting federal authorities in enforcing immigration law.

The Oregon Legislature expanded the law in 2021 with the Sanctuary Promise Act, which ensures that no government or law enforcement agency could assist federal immigration enforcement without a warrant from a federal judge.

However, the rollout of the law has been slow, according to Corti, who says, "I think the city thought that their policies surrounding collaboration with federal agencies were on the books. It takes citizen watchdog groups like ROP and CALC to work together to break isolation, ensuring the law is being followed."

In January of this year the court issued a judgment ordering the city to immediately amend policies that were in violation of state law.

Cottage Grove Chief of Police Cory Chase, who joined the department in September 2023 while the lawsuit was ongoing, says, "We will provide training to our officers on the Oregon Sanctuary Promise Act annually and have since updated our policy."

The Cottage Grove Police Department manual updated its Policy 428 and cites its guidelines for police officer interaction with federal officials in compliance with state immigration law. The new policy enforces, "An officer will not detain any individual, for any length of time, for a civil violation of federal immigration laws or a related civil warrant."

Section 428.6.1 of the policy further bars collabora-

tion with federal immigration agencies, explicitly stating, "Any requests from federal immigration officials for assistance relating to immigration enforcement shall be declined and the communication or request shall be documented."

Chase adds, "Since I have been here, I have not been aware of any violations of the Oregon Sanctuary Promise Act."

Before this case, the Lane County Sheriff's Department was also in violation of the Sanctuary Promise Act, Corti says. As a result of the amplification of this lawsuit, the department has since also updated its policy to comply with SPA.

ROP says new leadership, new officers and ultimately the new policy on the books strengthens SPA and makes people in the community feel safer.

Corti says, "It is hard to determine an accurate number of violations as people are afraid to report violations or don't even know that a hotline exists. People also are unaware that their rights are being violated."

The Oregon Department of Justice has a Sanctuary Promise Violations Hotline listed on its website that includes accommodation for Spanish and other languages.

Additionally, under the provisions of Sanctuary Promise Act, individuals who have already been detained by local law enforcement as a result of their immigration status are still within their right to take legal action against a municipality for violation of state law.

ROP and CALC both offer resources to communities to act on the enforcement of sanctuary laws. Corti says many times community members won't take legal action because they don't have the resources and they don't trust local law enforcement.

Corti adds, "While we are thrilled with this amazing success, there is still work to be done across the state of Oregon. We are not done; we have a plethora of resources for people who are looking to get involved."

*Find more about the Rural Organizing Project at [ROP.org/the-project/](https://rop.org/the-project/) or call 503-543-8417. Find CALC at [CALCLane.org/about-us/](https://calclane.org/about-us/) and 541-485-1755.*

## slant

• **As the college basketball season winds down** with no Ducks in the Final Four, the coaches are working hard to secure commitments from proven players who will transfer to Oregon. Oregon has gained good players through the transfer portal and lost good players. Let's hope the gains outweigh the losses this year and next March sees the Duck men and women tearing up the NCAA tournament.

• **On April 1, Gov. Tina Kotek signed House Bill 4002 into law, recriminalizing the possession of small amounts of drugs,** and rolling back Oregon's voter-approved Measure 110. It makes personal-use possession a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail. We appreciate that the bill sets out alternatives to criminal penalties by encouraging law enforcement agencies to create deflection programs diverting people to mental health and addiction services, but the Legislature let the increase in fentanyl use get in the way of a groundbreaking measure with this one.

• Spring is here (complete with tree pollen), and that means **Eugene's First Friday ArtWalk** has the benefit of light and warmer weather! As always, kick off at 5:30 pm at the Farmers Market Pavilion, 85 E. 8th Avenue. One of the walk's special events is *Emergence: Art by Currently and Formerly Incarcerated Oregonians* at the Midtown Arts Center, 174 E. 16th Avenue. The Lane Arts Council notes that "This exhibition from the University of Oregon Prison Education Program and Sponsors, Inc., highlights currently and formerly incarcerated artists with appreciation, so viewers can connect with visually striking stories from inside the prisons." There will be an artist talk at 6 pm.

• **"Extra! Extra! Refugee Journalists Become the Story — Migrating to Stay Alive,"** is the theme of a University of Oregon conference, featuring journalists from around the world whose reporting caused them and their families to be threatened. The Friday April 5 City Club program is part of the conference and features a report from UO instructor Charlie Dietz on last year's World Press Freedom Day at the United Nations in Manhattan; Farai Gonzo, a Zimbabwean journalist and professor who will describe her move to Canada for her own security; and Kimberley Mangun of

the University of Utah will discuss threats to journalism in Oregon, including stories of Black newspapers in Oregon and how the editors built on the mission of the Black press. Eugene City Club meets at noon in the Maple Room at Inn at the Fifth and is free.

• **Springfield City Club says it will transition to election programming** for the months of April and May. Its programs are Thursdays at noon at the Roaring Rapids Pizza Company, 4006 Franklin Boulevard in Glenwood. Go to [SpringfieldCityClub.org](https://SpringfieldCityClub.org) for upcoming programs and membership information.

• **The University of Oregon School of Music and Dance is hosting a memorial for musician Michael Denny** 1 pm April 6 in Berwick Hall at the SOMD. Denny taught courses in jazz at the UO from 1995 to 2021, and his career included performances with Eartha Kitt, Buddy Miles, Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson, Paul Bollenback, Obo Addy and more. He also appeared in Leonard Bernstein's Mass with the Eugene Symphony and at the Cabrillo Festival, both under the baton of Marin Alsop, his SOMD remembrance says.



# STUNG

## THE INSIDE STORY AT *EUGENE WEEKLY* OF EMBEZZLEMENT, HEARTBREAK, SURVIVAL – AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

By Camilla Mortensen

I got the call on Dec. 13, 2023, as I zoomed south on I-5, bleary and stressed after a late-night flight from Florida. I'd flown into Seattle, thinking I could save money on my return flight from Ft. Lauderdale rather than going straight home to Eugene. But now I faced a five-hour drive with nothing to do but worry about the things in my life needing constant attention: an epileptic dog, a pregnant horse and my newspaper, *Eugene Weekly*.

I'm the newspaper's editor-in-chief. I live on deadlines and, as a result, I never get a real vacation. In Florida, I went to the beach with my mother and sisters in the morning. At night, my family went to bed but I stayed on West Coast time with my laptop editing articles, posting stories to our website, writing newsletters and fixing typos.

At least I didn't need to worry about the paper's finances. The woman whose job it was to keep track of the newspaper's finances — whom going forward I will refer to as the Bookkeeper — had assured everyone the paper was on stable footing.

As it turns out, the Bookkeeper had suffered a scare while I was gone. She'd started having seizures before I left, she said, but while I was out of town, she suffered a series of them, and doctors were going to put her into an induced coma. That had been only four days before I got the call. Amazingly, she was already out of the hospital and working from home, refusing to let anyone step in and do her job.

"Up and running payroll," she'd texted me.

But then my phone rang while on I-5.

It came from Derek Johnson, the son of the newspaper's owner, asking me if I knew why the Bookkeeper had demanded \$30,000 to make payroll when the paper was supposed to be doing OK. I pulled over to check my emails but still couldn't figure it out.

"I'm a little confused," I texted Derek.

Everything else suddenly vanished. The paper needed to come up with \$30,000 in cash right now. What had happened? I was completely confused.

No one yet had any idea how bad it really was.

It wasn't sagging ad sales, falling readership or any of the other factors that threatened the survival of community newspapers today.

We'd been ripped off. Plundered. Betrayed. And it had all happened from within.

Nearly three months ago, we at *Eugene Weekly* made the heartbreaking announcement that the paper had been embezzled by a staffer — someone we had trusted — and that for the first time in more than 20 years we would not be printing a paper.

We didn't know the scale of the theft (at least \$100,000, as we've since learned) or the unpaid bills the Bookkeeper

had been hiding (beyond \$200,000). But our staff of 10 was laid off, from longtime employees to the college student we hired part-time to produce our What's Happening calendar. We could no longer fulfill the mission to which everyone devoted themselves, bringing you the news of Eugene and Lane County. We thought the paper might never publish again.

Within hours of the announcement, you, our readers, came to the rescue. By the end of the day, the story was on local TV and radio, and by the next week it was national news. We let folks know about our nonprofit support arm and that we could take direct contributions. A GoFundMe campaign alone raised more than \$90,000.

**It wasn't sagging ad sales, falling readership or any of the other factors that threatened the survival of community newspapers today.**

But we've kept hearing the question: "What really happened at *Eugene Weekly*?"

You deserve to know. The story is both stranger, and more common, than you'd think.

I **SOMEHOW MOVED TOWARD JOURNALISM** from my academic career as a folklorist when I saw an ad in the paper for an environment reporter. I knew nothing about writing for a newspaper when I published my first story about toxic emissions from the Hynix chip plant in west Eugene. That was 17 years ago. A big reason I have

devoted myself to this paper, both as a writer and now as editor, is because of the newspaper's primary owner, Anita Johnson.

At 94, Anita still comes to the office, writes opinion pieces for *Slant* and discusses the news section with me. Her love of journalism and unending desire to make positive change in the community and the world is at the heart of what the *Weekly* does.

It's been a lifelong commitment. Anita served as editor of the *Daily Emerald* at the University of Oregon in 1951, when fraternity members burned a cross on a sorority's front lawn. One of the women at the sorority had been dating a Black man. Anita broke the story and shamed the UO for its racist complacency and coverup. Her reporting made national news.

Anita later worked for the *Washington Post* before she married her college sweetheart, Art Johnson. Art launched a successful law practice in Eugene, and together they raised four kids. In the early 1990s, one of Anita's college friends, Fred Taylor, retired from his job as managing editor and later editor of *The Wall Street Journal*.

Fred and his wife, Georga, went in with the Johnsons to buy *What's Happening*, a free weekly publication. Fred and Anita wanted something more from the paper that was then just a calendar of local events. They wanted a paper that dug out the truth, that spoke up and spoke out.

Fred died in 2015. Anita often repeats his admonition to her: "Never sell the *Weekly*. The town needs this newspaper."

Anita has provided guidance, insight and a gentle hand. She gives direction but never tells us what to print or say — just how to think about our jobs.

The paper eked it out every year. If there was a profit, Anita sank it back into the business. She and Art helped the paper during the Great Recession but rarely had to kick in her own money. That changed during COVID.

The paper relies heavily on print ads from restaurants, bars, nightclubs and concert venues — when they closed for COVID, that ad revenue vanished overnight. Most alt-weeklies faced the same crisis. Many didn't survive.

Anita started reaching for her checkbook more and more often to cover the bills.

She knew that couldn't go on forever. Art died in March 2022, and we began to worry about a succession plan.

Her four kids, all successful in their own right, saw the *Weekly* as their mother's pursuit, not theirs.

Derek, a Eugene attorney, summed up his own view of it.

"I took over my father's law firm," Derek often said. "I have no interest in taking over my mother's newspaper."

But that changed after Derek and his siblings watched in October 2023 as the UO School of Journalism and Communication inducted Anita into its Hall of Achieve-

**And the money that was supposed to go to Oregon Saves for employee retirements that our paychecks showed as going out? Never paid. The bank accounts? Empty.**

# ‘In the first days after the embezzlement came to light, the office was a house of mourning. People were crying at their desks. It was as though someone had died.’

— BOB KEEFER, RETIRED ARTS EDITOR

ment. At the ceremony that evening, Derek said he knew that he needed to step up and help his 94-year-old mother figure out a succession plan and keep the newspaper going.

First, he had to learn how *EW* actually operated. He was shocked at what he found.

Like other small businesses, we ran on trust. The *Weekly* also operated by committee, with each person — ownership, editor, art director, sales, business, tech — reporting to one another, a throwback to the *Weekly*’s communal beginnings in the early 1980s.

Anita didn’t want to be a traditional publisher, overseeing the daily operations. So no one was really in charge.

Derek, a stakeholder in a thriving law firm, knew that no one should run a business like that.

Derek didn’t know anything about the newspaper’s finances. So he went to the one person who should have the answers, the Bookkeeper.

The Bookkeeper had been in charge of the *Weekly*’s finances and accounting since early 2020 and had previously worked at the front desk, starting in 2018. Her husband also worked at *EW*. We trusted her — considered her a friend.

For years, *EW*’s internal financial controls required Anita to approve every expenditure and sign every check. But that stopped during the pandemic — it didn’t seem safe for Anita to come into the office all the time during the COVID shutdown. That meant the Bookkeeper alone handled the inflow and spending of the *Weekly*’s cash.

The Bookkeeper kept saying the paper was still losing money, even post-COVID when ad sales went back up. So why was the *Weekly* still struggling?

Derek asked the Bookkeeper for a report on the newspaper’s revenues, spending and current cash balances. The Bookkeeper couldn’t give him a straight answer. Derek was stunned to find out that, when his mother wrote a check to cover the *Weekly*’s expenses, she was relying solely on the Bookkeeper to tell her how much money the company needed.

Still, no one suspected the accounting problems stemmed from anything but incompetence and disorganization. During a night out with a friend in November 2023, Derek confided that the newspaper’s books hadn’t been balanced for months. “The paper hasn’t even filed its taxes for 2022,” he said. “That’s nuts.”

The Bookkeeper blamed the taxes on the newspaper’s CPA firm and made excuses for everything else. But she still couldn’t answer Derek’s questions, so he kept the pressure on.

In mid-November, the Bookkeeper presented a budget plan for 2024 to Anita and Derek and the other managers: Rob Weiss, head of ad sales; James Bateman, tech and web; Todd Cooper, art director; and me, the editor.

The Bookkeeper said everything was looking up. The paper might need a little more money from Anita in January — ad sales tend to slump after Christmas — but overall, the future looked rosy. None of us had access to the numbers.

And that’s where things stood when I went off to Florida on Dec. 8.

Two days later, the Bookkeeper suffered seizures and was life-flighted to Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland. Her husband told Weiss and me that doctors would induce a coma to stop the seizures.

Here’s what the husband didn’t tell us. The Bookkeeper

had a cocaine addiction that she and her husband had kept secret. Her husband thought she’d gotten clean. But she had been back on drugs, doing an 8-ball of coke (or an eighth of an ounce) a day. As she slipped into unconsciousness, the Bookkeeper told her husband that she’d been taking money from the *Weekly*.

She said something about \$6,000 and her fears about how hurt Anita would be if she ever found out.

We didn’t get that story — not yet. We now know why the Bookkeeper, once her seizures had stopped, went back to work quickly and didn’t allow anyone else to deal with the finances.

Two days later, on Dec. 13, the Bookkeeper called Anita and told her the newspaper needed \$30,000 to make the next payroll. Anita wrote the check and then grew suspicious. She called Derek, who promptly had the check stopped.

And that’s all I knew when I got off I-5 and made it home late that evening. I called the Bookkeeper’s husband to see how she was, and that’s when he told me everything about the coke addiction and the \$6,000.

He told me he needed to tell the managers personally and would do so the next day. I got off the phone and should have called Derek right away. But I had trouble believing what the Bookkeeper’s husband had just told me. I called a friend, a former investigative reporter, to get his impression.

“Only \$6,000?” my friend said. “Don’t believe it. If she’s a coke addict, she didn’t stop at six grand. Double that number and add a zero.”

My heart sank further. I still refused to believe it could be true. But the next day the Bookkeeper’s husband told the other managers the same story he’d told me the night before. He claimed he didn’t know about the embezzlement and brought us the Bookkeeper’s laptop. “I’m trying to cooperate/assist as much as I can,” he later texted me.

As soon as he left, we called Derek. We alerted the bank, which shut down the *Weekly*’s accounts. We fired the Bookkeeper and her husband. We went into her office to look at the accounting on her computer.

It didn’t take us long to see she’d diverted \$90,000 in cash, either through electronic transfers or checks she’d written to herself. We would later learn she had given herself a \$30,000-a-year raise. And the money that was supposed to go to Oregon Saves for employee retirements that our paychecks showed as going out? Never paid. The bank accounts? Empty.

And then we discovered the debts. The Bookkeeper had done a careful job of deflecting bill collectors and keeping creditors at bay. We owed our printer \$70,000. They tell me that when I saw the printer’s bill, I turned white. I only recall my ears ringing. We later learned about a \$21,000 debt for the postage meter, at least \$10,000 in unpaid taxes, mystery amounts for overdue credit card bills and a line of credit. Our copy editor, Dan Buckwalter, recalls coming to the office soon after we learned about the embezzlement to find a shut-off notice from Northwest Natural Gas stuck to the office’s front door.

We didn’t know the scale of the damage at the time. Now-retired Arts Editor Bob Keefer witnessed the dark mood that overtook everyone. “In the first days after the embezzlement came to light, the office was a house of mourning,” Keefer recalls. “People were crying at their

desks. It was as though someone had died.”

On Dec. 21, 2023, we published one last issue, the Give Guide, to help people choose worthy nonprofits for their holiday donations. (Irony duly noted.)

And then, just before Christmas, the newspaper laid off everyone.

Derek considered having the *Weekly* file for bankruptcy protection but realized the newspaper could not afford the \$20,000 legal fees the filing would require. The Johnson family signaled they were ready to give up.

**ACCORDING TO A 2020 STUDY** by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, billing and payroll fraud is two times higher and check and payment tampering is four times higher for small businesses. We learned, after we revealed the embezzlement, that it’s more common than we knew. Businesses and nonprofits around Lane County and the country told us of their own embezzlements that they have chosen not to reveal due to the embarrassment and possible backlash.

But *Eugene Weekly* is a newspaper, and transparency is what we are all about. We couldn’t just disappear without telling the community what had happened.

So we decided to go public on Dec. 28, our next publication date.

When I sat down to write that painful message, I expected to be writing the *Weekly*’s obit. But within days after Christmas, Anita and Derek Johnson decided to fight on. That’s Anita’s way. She wanted the community to weigh in.

Rather than announce the death of the *Weekly*, I instead wrote this:

“*Eugene Weekly* is this town. We are who we are because we are the community’s paper, for better or for worse. We’ve sought to enlighten you. We’ve sought to entertain you. We’ve pissed you off, even when we didn’t mean to. And most of all, we have stood as this community’s alternative voice, a watchdog that speaks up to power on behalf of everyone.

“We’re heartbroken to have to tell you that this independent voice is in danger of falling silent. There will be no print paper edition of *EW*, for the first time in more than 20 years. And we are fighting like hell to print another one.”

The message went out under the headline, “Where’s the Damn Newspaper?” *The Register-Guard*, KLCC and local TV all covered the story, which went national the next day — from *The New York Times* to the *Associated Press*.

But the most important news to us: You came to our rescue.

People started emailing and calling, asking how they could help. We directed people to our nonprofit arm. We set up that GoFundMe account — we hadn’t done so in advance because we could not imagine the sudden outpouring of support. Local businesses did fundraisers, and people sent checks large and small, and it all gave us so much hope.

Slowly, we brought staffers back on the payroll. Our printer agreed to keep printing us, as long as we paid in cash upfront — which was more than generous. After *Eugene Weekly*’s red boxes sat empty for six weeks, we returned to print on Feb. 8. The headline: “Here’s Your Damn Newspaper.”

## But *Eugene Weekly* is a newspaper, and transparency is what we are all about. We couldn’t just disappear without telling the community what had happened.



We raised more than \$200,000, and the gifts that sustain us are still coming in.

Our journalism came roaring back. Retired journalists and freelancers offered stories and help. My staff never stopped showing up and trying to help. The Catalyst Journalism Project at the University of Oregon's School of Journalism sent us more than 10 student reporters to help cover the news. Those reporters helped us break stories online, including the news that Eugene 4J Superintendent Andy Dey was under investigation, a story we stayed ahead on right up to the day when the school board voted not to renew Dey's contract.

We broke news about illegal searches at Lane County's juvenile detention center and examined false claims against Measure 110, the state's efforts to decriminalize possession of drugs. We're investigating allegations of women being drugged at UO fraternities. We mourned the loss of homeless advocate Eric Jackson.

**TODAY, I'M WRITING TO TELL YOU** we expect *Eugene Weekly* to emerge stronger than before.

You deserve to hear from us how we plan to do that.

We have revamped our financial systems to ensure all our revenues — and your gifts — remain secure.

Before we spent any of your donations, we put better controls in place. We now have outside bookkeeping through accounting and business consulting firm Kernutt Stokes, creating a division of duties and developing robust practices to ensure reliable cash controls. We now get monthly financial reports.

We reported the embezzlement to the Eugene Police

Department, which is now waiting for us to turn over evidence. But it turns out investigating and prosecuting an embezzlement is lengthy and expensive — a retainer for a forensic accountant firm is \$10,000 or more. We've asked Kernutt Stokes to examine the records. When the accounting portion is done, the information will then be handed to the Financial Crimes unit of the Eugene police.

We have produced a long-term business plan that maps out our growth over the next five years.

## **But the most important news to us: You came to our rescue.**

How do we plan to grow?

*Eugene Weekly* readers love their print edition — and so do we — but we also need to improve our website and the digital delivery of our stories. This means seeking advertising revenues through the website and diversifying our revenue sources beyond print ads.

We are hiring new office and sales staff to rebuild and diversify our revenues, and we're bringing back our arts and news reporting team.

We've committed to spending every spare dollar on

our journalism. That means hiring more reporters and editors to deliver more of the news you expect.

To make sure this happens, we've appointed an interim publisher: Mark Zusman, owner and publisher of *Willamette Week* in Portland. We've also hired a community engagement director — Jody Rolnick, the former editor and publisher of the *Cottage Grove Sentinel*, who is also an experienced grant writer — first to try to thank folks for their help and then to build on that goodwill and trust for the future.

And most importantly, we are continuing to be the local, independent source of news and entertainment that you have loved. We continue to publish your letters and opinions, to list your events in the calendar and to cover the stories that make this community better and stronger — just as you have made us better and stronger.

We pledge to honor your trust in us. And maybe the best way to end this account is to share an essential part of the mission statement that has guided us for years — a mission that means more now than ever.

*Eugene Weekly exists to boldly question prevailing wisdom and authority. We expose corporate practices and public policies that benefit the few at the expense of the many. We provide a voice for the oppressed and dismissed, and support unfettered artistic expression. As informed citizens, we carry a responsibility for community leadership. We advocate aggressively for environmental sanity, government accountability, sustainable economics, social justice, cultural diversity, tolerance and the lively, free interchange of ideas and opinions.*

*Eugene Weekly* has always owed its existence to you. We now acknowledge we also owe our survival to you.

**Thank you for your continued support! [support.eugeneweekly.com](https://support.eugeneweekly.com)**

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Photo by Ronan Donovan

He has been embedded with and studied the wolves for months and years, from Yellowstone National Park to the Arctic. Now, conservation photographer Ronan Donovan of *National Geographic* is mingling with humans to share his photo work and observations in two exhibits in Eugene — ***From Wolf Country*** at New Zone Art Gallery and ***Wolves: Photography by Ronan Donovan*** at the Museum of Natural and Cultural History. All this for a man who began his professional career as a wildlife biologist, though he notes that “I had been building photography as a hobby.” That hobby became his passion in 2011 when he documented in photos the snare injuries chimpanzees were suffering in traps set by poachers in Uganda. Donovan joined *National Geographic* in 2012, and in a span of 10 years, he has made himself at home among packs of wolves. It is not isolating work for Donovan. “There’s an idea that it is hard,” he says, “but I struggled a lot in the human world growing up.” That included brushes with the law at age 13, he adds, but the Vermont native (he now lives in Bozeman, Montana) found respite in the neighboring woods. “I’m much more relaxed in the woods,” he says. “It makes sense to me. The extreme to me is cities.” Donovan has found comfort in public speaking, especially in regard to the stories and photos he shares of wolves. “It’s been a learned skill for me,” he says. “This work I do is mission-driven. I’ve embraced the opportunities I get. I’m adding heartbeats to data points.”

**From Wolf Country**, an exhibit by conservation photographer Ronan Donovan is April 1 through 30 at New Zone Art Gallery, 110 E. 11th Avenue. Donovan also is at New Zone April 5 to answer questions during First Friday Art Walk. *Wolves: Photography by Ronan Donovan* is an exhibit that runs through May 26 at the Museum of Natural and Cultural History, 1680 E. 15th Avenue. In addition, Donovan will speak at MNCH — The Human-Wolf Connection — 6 pm Thursday, April 4, and moderate a panel discussion — Face-To-Face With Oregon’s Wolves: Expert Perspectives — 1 pm Saturday, April 6. — Dan Buckwalter

## THURSDAY

### APRIL 4

#### ART/CRAFT

B. Wurtz: Art Works, Davis Family Lecture, 4pm, UO Lawrence Hall Rm. 177. FREE.

The Human-Wolf Connection, 6pm, Museum of Natural & Cultural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave. \$6.

#### CIVICS

Police Commission Law Enforcement Mental Health & Wellness Subcommittee, noon. Online at Eugene-OR.gov.

Envision Eugene Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, 5:30pm. Online at Eugene-OR.gov.

Homesharing: A Sustainable Solution to the Affordable Housing Crisis, 7-8:30pm, Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, 645 NW. Monroe Ave., Corvallis.

Santa Clara Community Organization General Meeting, 7pm, Messiah Lutheran Church, 3280 River Rd.

#### COMEDY

Wild Ones: Comedy Open Mic, 8pm today & Thu., Apr. 11, WildCraft Cider Works, 232 Lincoln St. FREE.

#### FILM

Cinema Nights, 7:30-9:30pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

#### FOOD/DRINK

8th Annual March Madness IPA Blind Taste-Off, 11:30am-10pm thru. Apr. 7, The Public House, 418 A St.,

Spfd & beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave..

von Trapp Release Party, 6-9pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette. FREE.

#### GATHERINGS

Flourish Networking Eugene, 1-2:30pm today & Thu., Apr. 11, Oregon Wine LAB, 488 Lincoln St. \$30 per month.

Hearing Voices & Different Realities Discussion & Support Group, 1-2:30pm, Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. FREE.

Psychedelic Parents Group, 5:30pm, EDELIC Ctr., 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. \$10 sliding scale.

National MindFit Seminar, 6pm, Florence Seventh-day Adventist Church, 4445 Hwy. 101, Florence. FREE.

#### KIDS/FAMILY

Preschool Storytime, 10:15-10:45am today & Thu., Apr. 11, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

Kids: Dog Man, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

#### LECTURES/CLASSES

Extra! Extra! Don’t Kill the Messenger — Migrating to Stay Alive, today thru. April 7, UO EMU Ballroom, Rm. 244, 1395 University St. FREE.

(B.O.G.S.) Speaker Series w/ Roy Lowe-Shorebirds, 9-11am, Willamalane Adult Activity Ctr., 215 W. C St., Spfd. \$3 don.

Surplus White Nationalism & GOP Climate Obstruc-

tion, 4-6pm, Knight Library Browsing Rm., 1501 Kincaid St. FREE.

#### MUSIC

Oregon’s Oldtime Fiddlers, all day thru. Apr. 6, Winston Assembly of God Church, 360 SE Darrell Ave., Winston. More info at OOTFA.org.

DJ Mental Color & DJ Will-2Live, 5pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. \$4.

The Jazz Ambassadors, 5pm today & Thu., Apr. 11, Jazzy Ladies Cafe & Club, 560 Oak St., Ste. 130. N/C.

Live Music, 6pm today & Thu., Apr. 11, Territorial Vineyards & Wine Co., 907 W. 3rd Ave. N/C.

Open Blues Jam w/ Dave Roberts, 6pm today & Thu., Apr. 11, Jimmy Mac's Overtime Bar & Grill, 770 S. Bertelsen Rd. N/C.

Space to Drive, multiple genres, 6pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St. N/C.

Paul Safar & The Tsunami Baby Grand w/ Baird Quinn, jazz-classic-pop, 6:30pm, Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette. Don.

Bees in a Bottle, indie duo, 7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

Joel Schoenhals, piano recital, 7pm, Beall Concert Hall, 961 E. 18th Ave. Stu. w/ ID FREE, \$10 gen. adm.

Jun lida w/ Dylan Hayes, Martin Budde, Kelsey Mines & Xavier LeCouturier, jazz, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$20.

Manic Pixie Dream Boat, indie-rock, 8pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$5.

The Muddy Souls w/ Libracello, bluegrass, 8pm, The Big Dirty, 844 Olive St. \$10. Funk Jam, 9pm today & Thu., Apr. 11, Luckey's Club, 933 Olive St. N/C.

#### NIGHTLIFE

Beginners Board Game Night, 5pm today & Thu., Apr. 11, Funagain Games Game Parlor, 2711 Oak St. FREE.

Karaoke For Cash, 6pm today & Thu., Apr. 11, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Jeff, 6pm today & Thu., Apr. 11, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Cribbage Night, 6:30pm today & Thu., Apr. 11, Falling Sky Brewpub, 1334 Oak Alley. \$5.

Trivia Night w/ Brett, 6:30pm today & Thu., Apr. 11, Viking Brewing Co., 520 Commercial St., Unit F. FREE.

Karaoke Thursdays, 7:30pm today & Thu., Apr. 11, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd. FREE.

#### OUTDOORS/RECREATION

Ninkasi Run Club, 5:30pm today & Thu., Apr. 11, The Ninkasi Better Living Rm., 155 Blair Blvd. FREE.

## FRIDAY

### APRIL 5

#### ART/CRAFT

First Free Friday at the Museum, 10am-5pm, Museum of Natural & Cultural

History, 1680 E. 15th Ave. FREE.

Youth Art Takeover, 1-6pm, Franklin Crossing, 550 NW. Franklin Ave., Bend. FREE.

First Friday ArtWalk, 5:30-8pm, Farmers Market Pavilion, 85 E. 8th Ave. FREE.

Jonathan Short — First Friday Artwalk, 5:30-9:30pm, Food Pavillion, 85 E. 8th Ave. FREE.

Pop-up Gallery: Lambtown42 Windowfront Exhibition, 5:30-8pm, 824 Charnelton St. FREE.

#### BENEFITS

Humanitarian Aid Benefit for Gaza, 9pm, Cowfish, 62 W. Broadway. Funds at the door will be donated to ANERA & the Palestine Children's Relief Fund.

#### CIVICS

First Fridays Communities of Color & Allies Network Event, 4:30pm, Campbell Community Ctr, 155 High St.

#### COMEDY

All Ducked Up: A Springfield Comedy Open Mic, 5pm, Twisted Duck, 533 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. FREE.

IMOMSOHARD: Ladies Night Comedy Concert, 7pm, McDonald Theatre, 1010 Willamette. \$49.50.

#### FILM

Movie Night: *Past Lives*, 6pm, Sheldon Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd. FREE.

*The Boy Who Never Tangoed*, 7:30pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$8-11.

#### FOOD/DRINK

Whiteaker Walking Food Tour, 1-4pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St. \$90.

Victorian Spirits, 6-8pm, Shelton McMurphey Johnson House, 303 Willamette. \$30-35.

#### GATHERINGS

Recovery Dharma Buddhist Meeting, 10-11:30am, Jesco Club, 340 Blair Blvd. FREE.

LGBTQ+ Youth Group, 4-6pm, Amazon Community Ctr., 2700 Hilyard St. FREE.

#### KIDS/FAMILY

Family Storytime, 10:15-10:45am, Sheldon Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd. FREE.

#### LECTURES/CLASSES

Smoothie Bowls w/ Yaakov Levine, FNTP, 2-3pm, Natural Grocers, 201 Coburg Rd. FREE.

Djembe Drumming For Beginners, 5pm, Djembe Trading Post, 1740 W. 10th Ave. \$10.

#### MUSIC

Live Music, 6pm, Territorial Vineyards & Wine Co., 907 W. 3rd Ave. N/C.

Nat Kameleokalani Douglass, folk-country-rock, 6pm, Viking Brewing Co., 520 Commercial St., Unit F. N/C.

Bees in a Bottle, indie duo, 7pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

European Folk Ensemble, 7:30pm, The Hybrid Gallery, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$15-18.

Pushing Past Entropy w/ Sean Peterson, Jack Radsliff & Ken Mastrogiovanni, jazz, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$20.

Rock'n Rewind, 8pm, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. \$10.

Combobox & Face Transplant, alt. punk-rock9pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$5.

Meow Mix, 9pm, The Cooler Bar, 20 Centennial Lp. N/C.

#### NIGHTLIFE

Karaoke w/ Lewie, 9pm, Slice Downtown, 910 Willamette. FREE.

#### SOCIAL DANCE

Church of 80s: Dance Party, 9pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. \$4.

#### SPECTATOR SPORTS

College Softball: Oregon vs. Washington, 7pm today, 5pm Sat., Apr. 6 & noon Sun., Apr. 7. Tickets at GoDucks.com.

College Baseball: Oregon at UCLA 7:05pm today, 6:05pm Sat., Apr. 6 & 12:05pm Sun., Apr. 7. More info at GoDucks.com.

Eugene Emeralds Baseball Opening Day vs. Tri-City Dust Devils, 7:05pm, PK Park. Tickets at MiLB.com.

#### TEENS

D&D for Beginners, 4-5:30pm, Sheldon Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd. FREE.

Tea Talk: Body Image, 4-5pm, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

#### THEATER

*Alabama Story*, 7:30pm, The Very Little Theatre, 2350 Hilyard St. \$21-26.

*Brigadoon*, 7:30pm, Cottage Theatre, 700 Village Dr., Cottage Grove. \$15-29.

## SATURDAY

### APRIL 6

#### ART/CRAFT

Face-to-Face w/ Oregon's Wolves: Expert Perspectives, 1pm, Museum of Natural & Cultural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave. \$6.

Saturday Session: Pam Spettel on Robert Canaga, 1pm, Don Dexter Gallery, 2911 Tennyson Ave., Ste. 202. FREE.

Youth Art Takeover, 1-6pm, Franklin Crossing, 550 NW. Franklin Ave., Bend. FREE.

Wild Woman Art & Soul Workshop, 5pm, Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St. Reg. at KayaSinger.com.

#### FARMERS MARKETS

Lane County Farmers Market, 9am-4pm, Farmers Market Pavillion, 85 E. 8th Ave.

#### FILM

*The Boy Who Never Tangoed*, 1pm & 7:30pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$8-11.

#### FOOD/DRINK

Alesong Pinot Noir Release, noon-7pm, Alesong Brewing & Blending, 80848 Territorial Hwy.

Whiteaker Walking Food Tour, 1-4pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St. \$90.

#### GATHERINGS

Anton Chekhov: Genius Architect of the Modern Short Story, 9:30am-noon, UO Baker Downtown Ctr., 975 High St. \$95-135.

Overeaters Anonymous, 9:30-10:30am, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave. FREE.

Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser, 10am-4pm, FOOD for Ln. County Youth Farm, 705 Flamingo Ave., Spfd.

The Magical Moombah: Rowdy Rodeo, 10am & 1pm, The Shedd, 868 High St. \$5.

Trans & Allies Social Hour, 10am-noon, Theo's Coffee House, 199 W. 8th Ave., #1. FREE.

Bread-to-Tap Festivities, noon-4pm, Old World Deli, 341 SW. 2nd St., Corvallis. FREE.

Pow Wow, noon, LCC 4000 E. 30th Ave. FREE.

Mental Health in the Balance: Bilateral & Internal Systems Solutions, 5pm, 70 E. Howard Ave. \$15-25 sug. don.

#### HEALTH

Occupy Medical Services, 9-11am, St. Vincent de Paul



Service Ctr., 450 Hwy. 99. FREE.

KIDS/FAMILY

Baby & Toddler Storytime, 10:15-10:45am, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

Family Storytime, 10:15-10:45am, 11-11:30am & 11:45am-12:15pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

MARKETS

Eugene Saturday Market, 10am-4pm, Park Blocks.

MUSIC

Big Sue Band, fiddle, 6pm, Viking Brewing Co., 520 Commercial St., Unit F. N/C.

Live Music, 6pm, Territorial Vineyards & Wine Co., 907 W. 3rd Ave. N/C.

An evening w/ The Floydian Slips, Pink Floyd's music, 7pm, McDonald Theatre, 1010 Willamette. \$25.

Angelic Noise, pop, 7pm, The 3 Legged Crane Pub & Brewhouse, 48329 E. 1st St., Oakridge. N/C.

Rad Ranger, alt. rock, 7:30pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

Sarah Saul Combo w/ Cliff Jetton, Joel Hoffman & Oren Sreebny, jazz, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$20.

The Rosa Lees, bluegrass, 7:30pm, Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette. \$17.50.

Tracy Bonham, alt. indie-rock, 7:30pm, Silva Concert Hall, Hult Ctr. \$25.

Hot Tub Hit Machine, hit covers, 8pm, Swallowtail Spirits, 111 Main St., Spfd. \$8.

Jam Wagon, folk-blues, 8pm, Axe & Fiddle, 657 E. Main St., Cottage Grove. N/C.

Natsukashii Soul, jazz-funk, 8pm, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. \$7.

Undercover Lovergirl! Tour — Taylar Elizza Beth & WD4D & AMIIA, soulful, 8pm, The Hybrid Gallery, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$15-20.

Evil Twin Birthday Bash, rock, 8:30pm, Ghost Town Outfitters, 1040 Tyinn St. \$8.

Alder St & The Backpedallers, acoustic rock-country, 9pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$10.

Night Club w/ Rosegarden Funeral Party + JPEG, dark, 9pm, John Henry's, 881 Willamette. \$20-25.

Whalien & Upstate Trio, rock, 9pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. \$10-12.

NIGHTLIFE

Karaoke w/ Lewie, 9pm, Slice Downtown, 910 Willamette. FREE.

Feels like the first time: A Burlesque Revue Celebrating Firsts, 10pm, 255 Madison St. \$10.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION  
AMTGARD — Live Action Role Play, 1pm, Emerald Park Pavillion, 1400 Lake Dr. FREE.

SPECTATOR SPORTS

Collage Rowing: Collegiate Covered Bridge Regatta, OU, OSU & more schools, 7:30am-1pm, Dexter Lake, 850 Shore Line Dr., Lowell. FREE.

Eugene Emerald's vs. Tri-City Dust Devils, 6:05pm today & Sun., Apr. 7, PK Park. Tickets at MiLB.com.

SPIRITUAL

Full-day Meditation, 10am-4pm, The Ctr. for Sacred Sciences, 5440 Saratoga St. FREE.

Workshop: Lighten Up w/ Meditation, 1pm, Online.

Reg. at CDMSpiritualCenter.org.

THEATER

Alabama Story, 7:30pm, The Very Little Theatre, 2350 Hilyard St. \$21-26.

Auditions for Alice in Wonderland, 2-4pm, Ebbert Memorial United Methodist Church, 532 C St., Spfd.

SUNDAY

APRIL 7

ART/CRAFT

Wild Woman Art & Soul Workshop, 5pm, Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St. Reg. at KayaSinger.com.

COMEDY

Come On In! Open Mic, 7:30pm, The Barn Light Bar, 924 Willamette. FREE.

FILM

Gone w/ the Wind 85th Anniversary, 2:15PM & 7pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$10.50-12.50.

GATHERINGS

Sunday Gathering, 10:30-11:30am, The Center, 390 Vernal St. FREE.

Rainbow Family Picnic, 2pm, Marken's House, Call 503-727-2498 for directions, Eugene. FREE.

Emerald Valley Ctr. for Spiritual Living, LGBTQ+ friendly, 5:30pm, Hilyard Community Ctr., 2580 Hilyard St. Don.

KIDS/FAMILY

Family Fun w/ LEGO, 1-5pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Learning to Confront & Heal Trauma, 2-3:30pm, Ctr. For Spiritual Living, Eugene, 390 Vernal St. \$50-75.

Nutrition & Lifestyle Medicine Classes, 2-4pm, Eugene Family YMCA Don Stathos Campus, 600 E. 24th Ave. FREE.

MARKETS

Native American Arts & Crafts Market, 10am-4pm, Farmers Market Pavilion, 85 E. 8th Ave.

MUSIC

Asian Fusion, 2:30pm, Hult Ctr. \$10-38.

Cascadia Clarinet Quartet — Classical on Broadway,

3pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$20.

EastSide Sunday Jam, 5pm, Twisted River Saloon, 1444 Main St., Spfd.

Easyfolk ft. Artist Night, 6:30pm, The Hybrid Gallery, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$15.

Jazz at the Ciderhouse — Hosted by Idit Shner, 4pm, WildCraft Cider Works, 232 Lincoln St. N/C.

Nixl, 9pm, John Henry's, 881 Willamette St. \$10-15.

NIGHTLIFE

RWMcCabe Studios: Open Mic, 4pm, Coldfire Brewing Co., 263 Mill St. FREE.

Open Mic, 5:30pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Jeff, 6pm, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Open Mic, 6pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

Trivia Mondays, 6:30pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

Quality Trivia, 7pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Karaoke Sundays, 7:30pm, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd. FREE.

4/20 Bingo, 8pm, 255 Madison St. \$10.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION

Yoga + Beer, 10:30am, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. \$25.

Eugene Community Ecstatic Dance & Movement, 11am-1pm, 118 Merry Ln. FREE.

SPIRITUAL

Remembering 'Abdu'l-Bahá — A Tribute, 10-11:30am, Baha'i Ctr. of Eugene, 1458 Alder St. FREE.

THEATER

Alabama Story, 2pm, The Very Little Theatre, 2350 Hilyard St. \$21-26.

MONDAY

APRIL 8

CIVICS

Eugene City Council Work Session, 5:30pm. Email NVenhuda@eugene-or.gov for more info.

Fireside Council, 6-8pm, Cascadia Quest, 31740 Owl Rd. FREE.

Alt-rock trailblazer and classically trained musician *Tracy Bonham*'s commercial success first came in 1996 at the age of 27, when the track "Mother Mother" erupted and topped the Modern Rock Billboard charts. April 6 and 7, Bonham is back in her hometown of Eugene performing at the Hult Center in collaboration with the Eugene Ballet. The show features adapted music from her discography as well as a premiere of new music and partners with the ballet's resident choreographer, Suzanne Haag. Her latest track — "Damn The Sky (For Being Too Wide)" is a love letter to her village — Eugene. "I am just blown away that I can do this. It's cosmic. I called for my village and it responded," she says of her collaboration with Eugene Ballet.

Tracy Bonham performs 7:30 pm Saturday, April 6 and 2 pm Sunday, April 7 at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets start at \$25 at EugeneBallet.org. The show opens with Gerald Arpino's Reflections and Toni Pimble's Slipstream. — Faheem Khan

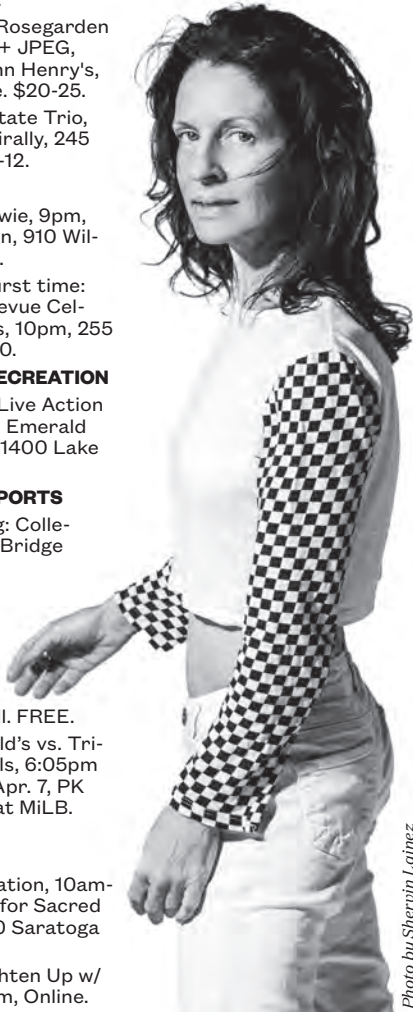


Photo by Shervin Lainez

# W.O.W. HALL

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FRIDAY, APRIL 5

*THE FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS*

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

**DAMIEN JURADO** WITH **LILY MILLER**

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

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SATURDAY, APRIL 20

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# EUGENE Weekly



Eugene City Council Meeting, 7:30pm, LCC Downtown Campus, 101 W. 10th Ave.

COMEDY

Comedy Open Mic w/ Seth Milstein, 8pm, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

FILM

Gone w/ the Wind 85th Anniversary, 7pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$10.50-12.50.

GATHERINGS

Fireside Council, 6-8pm, Cascadia Quest, 31740 Owl Rd. FREE.

MUSIC

RIFFLE: Chef's Night Out, 6:30pm, Ln. Events Ctr., 796 W. 13th Ave. \$95.

NIGHTLIFE

Cribbage Night, 6:30pm, Coldfire Brewing Co., 263 Mill St. \$3.

Open Mic, 6:30pm, Houndstooth Public House, 1795 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Bingo w/ Ty Connor, 7pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

SPIRITUAL

Mindful Integration & Breathwork w/ PSILO Temple, 7-9pm, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1300 Pearl St. FREE.

TEENS

Study Help, 4-6pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

TUESDAY

APRIL 9

ART/CRAFT

Figure Art Sessions, 6:15-9pm, New Zone Gallery, 110 E. 11th Ave. \$8.

CIVICS

Human Rights Commission — Economic Opportunities Work Group, 5:30-7:30pm. Online at Eugene-OR.gov.

FILM

Food, Inc. 2, 6:30pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$10-12.

GATHERINGS

Trips Showcase, 3-4pm, Wilamalane Adult Activity Ctr., 215 W. C St., Spfd. FREE.

Tween Games, 4:30-5:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Board of Director's Meeting, 5pm, Online at UWSWCD.org. FREE.

Women Veterans Town Hall, 5:30-6:30pm, Roseburg VA Medical Ctr. Auditorium, 913 NW. Garden Valley Blvd., Roseburg.

KIDS/FAMILY

Baby Storytime, 10:15am, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Toddler Storytime, 11am & 11:45am, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

LECTURES/CLASSES

What You Don't Know About Rhododendrons & Some Companion Plants, 7-9pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave. \$5 for non-members, FREE for members.

LITERARY ARTS

Transponder Book Club, 5-6pm, Email info@transponder.community for link. FREE.

MUSIC

Rose Women's Choir Spring Practice & Performance Season, 6:30pm, First Congregational Church, 1050 E. 23rd Ave. More info at SarahBRoseMusicStudio@gmail.com.

Rooster's Blues Jam, 7pm, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Wilamette. N/C.

The Rock Ridge Bluegrass Band, 7:30pm,

Tsunami Books, 2585 Wilamette. \$19.

NIGHTLIFE

Eugene Chess Club, 6pm, Bill & Tim's Barbecue & Tap House, 201 E. 13th Ave. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Jeff, 6pm, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Trivia Night w/ Elliot Martinez, 6:30pm, Oregon Wine LAB, 488 Lincoln St. FREE.

Trivia Night, 7pm, The Ninkasi Better Living Rm., 155 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Tavern Tales, 7:30pm, 255 Madison St. \$15-20.

Karaoke w/



Photo courtesy of LCC Native American Student Association

Jeff, 9pm, John Henry's, 881 Wilamette. FREE.

SOCIAL DANCE

Salsa Dancing, 7pm, The Big Dirty, 844 Olive. \$5.

SPECTATOR SPORTS

College Baseball: Oregon vs. Sacramento State, 5:05 today & Wed., Apr. 10, PK Park. Tickets at GoDucks.com.

Eugene Emeralds at Everett, today thru. Apr. 14. More info at MiLB.com.

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 10

ART/CRAFT

Youth Art Takeover, 1-6pm, Franklin Crossing, 550 NW. Franklin Ave., Bend. FREE.

Figure Art Sessions, 6:15-9pm, New Zone Gallery, 110 E. 11th Ave. \$8.

CIVICS

Eugene City Council Work Session, noon. Email NVenhuda@eugene-or.gov for more info.

Candidate Forum for Eugene City Council Candidates in Ward 1 & 7, 5:30pm, Campbell Community Ctr. 155 High St.

HRC — Advocacy Work Group, 5:30-7:30pm. Online at Eugene-OR.gov.

DANCE

Sydney Dance Company, 7:30pm, Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, 1037 SW. Broadway, Portland. \$12-90.

FILM

The Milagro Beanfield War — Movie Group, 1-3pm, Wilamalane Adult Activity Ctr., 215 W. C St., Spfd. FREE.

Nine Queens, 6:30pm, The Wildish Theater, 630 Main St., Spfd. FREE.

Gone w/ the Wind 85th Anniversary, 7pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$10.50-12.50.

GATHERINGS

Death Café, 3-4:30pm, Cascade Health, 2650 Suzanne Way. FREE.

Plant Meditation Circle, 6:15-7:45pm, Rooted Remedies Apothecary, 271 W. 8th Ave. \$10 sug. don.

KIDS/FAMILY

Criando Lectores (en español), 10:15-10:45am, Bethel

It is a sacred space, the dance area at powwows, and a wonderful sight for spectators. Native Americans wearing bold, majestic regalia, some holding their tribal flags, take to the floor to represent their nations, all dancing or marching to the relentless and heartfelt beat of the drums. The annual *Native American Student Association's Lane Powwow* returns to Lane Community College April 6 with two grand entries. This is a significant cultural gathering in the Pacific Northwest, NASA organizers emphasize, attracting participants and spectators from the region. Participants at this year's celebration include Bad Soul, a popular drummer at powwows throughout the West Coast, as the host drum, and the Soaring Hawk Singers as the honor drum. Megan Van Pelt is the head woman dancer and Sam Riding In is the head male dancer. Nick Sixkiller is the master of ceremonies while Anthony Quenelle serves as the arena director. Besides traditional drum and dance performances, Lane Powwow also features vendor booths showcasing Native American art, crafts, frybread, other food options and books. Also, there will be a salmon dinner cooked over an open fire between the two grand entries. Organizers note that the LCC powwow has helped foster and grow Native American enrollment at the school, from just 50 students in 1991 to now more than 500 students who self-identify as Native American.

The Native American Student Association presents the annual Lane Powwow Saturday, April 6 with grand entries at noon and 7 pm inside the LCC gymnasium, 4000 E. 30th Avenue. A salmon dinner cooked over an open fire is 5:30 pm to 7 pm at the LCC Longhouse. More information is at [Lanecc.edu](http://Lanecc.edu), search "powwow." FREE. — Dan Buckwalter

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Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

Sensory Storytime, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

#### LECTURES/CLASSES

Talk Time/Hora de conversación en inglés, 4:30-5:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Community Philosophy Circle: Saving the Planet, 6pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

#### LITERARY ARTS

Oregon Poet Laureate Anis Mojgani, 7-8:30pm, Cottage Grove Community Ctr., 700 E. Gibbs Ave., Cottage Grove. FREE.

#### MUSIC

Elizabeth Cable, singer-multi-instrumentalist, 6:30pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

EastSide AllStars at West-side Jam, 7pm, Twisted

Duck, 533 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. N/C.

Jammin' w/ the Pros w/ Nick Rieser, Hamilton Mays & Georges Bouhey, jazz, 7pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway.

Open Blues Jam w/ Dave Roberts, 7pm, Twisted Duck, 533 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. N/C.

Shelley James & Cal Coleman, vocalists-musicians, 7pm, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. N/C.

Cyrille Aimée w/ Mathis Picard, jazz, 7:30pm, The Shedd, 868 High St. \$18.25-36.

Johnny Manchild & Volares, indie-pop-goth, 8pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$5.

#### NIGHTLIFE

Open Mic, 5pm, Mulligan's Pub, 2841 Willamette. FREE.

Quality Trivia w/ Rob & Lorraine, 6pm, Hop Valley

Brewing Co., 990 W. 1st Ave. FREE.

Bingo Wednesdays, 7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Shelbyville Trivia, 7pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette. FREE.

Karaoke Night, 9pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. FREE.

#### SPECTATOR SPORTS

College Softball: Oregon at Grand Canyon, 6pm. More info at GoDucks.com.

#### SPIRITUAL

Eugene Sound Bath w/ PSILO Temple, 6:30-9pm, The Hybrid, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$25 don. for non members. FREE for members.

#### TEENS

Grow an Herb Garden, 4:30-5:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

## THURSDAY

### APRIL 11

#### ART/CRAFT

Youth Art Takeover, 1-6pm, Franklin Crossing, 550 NW. Franklin Ave., Bend. FREE.

Kahlil Robert Irving: Artist Talk, 4pm, UO Lawrence Hall Rm. 177, 1190 Franklin Blvd. FREE.

Paint & Sip — Wishes, 6:30-8:30pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St., Ste. 104. \$45.

#### FILM

*Eskawata Kayawai* — *The Spirit of Transformation*, 7pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$20.

#### FOOD/DRINK

Beer for Bees, 11:30am-9pm, Hop Valley Brewing Co., 990 W. 1st Ave. \$1 per beer goes to Save Oregon's Bees.

Thursday Tasting: Plank Town Brewing, 6-8pm, The

Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette. FREE samples.

#### GATHERINGS

13th Annual Business Expo West, 8am-4pm, Tektronix, 3025 SW. Zworykin Ave., Bldg. 38, Beaverton. \$20.

Living Estate Sale, 10am thru. Apr. 14, 74967 Reservoir Rd., Cottage Grove.

Psychedelic Recovery & Wellness Group, 5:30pm, EDELIC Ctr., 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. Don.

Shift Community Cycles Volunteer Appreciation Night, 6:30-8:30pm, Shift Community Cycles, 811 W. 6th Ave. RSVP to info@shiftcc.org.

#### LECTURES/CLASSES

GrEBES Spring Seminar 2024: Lessons from Neanderthals & the gunk between their teeth, 6-7pm, 123 Global Scholars Hall, UO 1595 E. 15th St. FREE.

#### LITERARY ARTS

Book Release for Ruby McConnell, Author of *Wilderness* & *The American Spirit*, 7-8:45pm, Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette. FREE.

Word — A Community Open Mic, 7-9pm, Wordcrafters in Eugene, 438 Charnelton St., Ste. 102. \$5.

#### MUSIC

Rudolf Korv & The NW Feels, Americana, 7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

A Tribute to Peggy Lee w/ Donna Courtell, Dona Clarke, Michael Anderson & more, jazz, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$15.

BendretheGiant, Natsukashii Soul & Notes App, funk-soul, 8pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$5.

#### THEATER

*Alabama Story*, 7:30pm, The Very Little Theatre, 2350 Hilyard St. \$21-26.

## theater



Photo by Jenny Graham

# Undoing the Curse

OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL OPENS THE SCOTTISH PLAY — AND BEGINS TO HEAL

By Bob Keefer

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival seems to have been under a terrible curse since 2011, when a structural beam supporting the Angus Bowmer Theatre mysteriously snapped one night, closing the 600-seat theater down for nearly two months at the height of the summer season. Year by year things only got worse, as late-season wildfire smoke began to shut down the festival's iconic outdoor Elizabethan Theatre in the summer. And then came COVID, the layoffs of 90 percent of the festival's staff and some tone deaf programming by a new artistic director. By the end of 2022 audiences and donors were in short supply, and it seemed one of the state's biggest arts nonprofits was as doomed as the protagonist of a Shakespearean tragedy.

Now enjoy the irony. Half way through a March 29 opening night production of *Macbeth*, the cursed Scottish play whose name, by tradition, cannot safely be spoken in the theater world, I realized that OSF is back. The Bowmer was packed for the show with an audience ready to applaud at the slightest provocation, even the pre-recorded welcome message. At intermission the lobby was loudly abuzz. Everyone was smiling, though the biggest smiles of all came from Tim Bond, the veteran OSF

associate artistic director who answered the call from Ashland last year when the OSF board and that tone deaf artistic director finally parted ways.

Bond, who served with Artistic Director Libby Appel from 1996 to 2007, had plenty to smile about. The critically wounded festival was kicking off the new season with four shows, and rehearsals had just begun that same day, he said, for the summer season's plays in the outdoor Elizabethan Theatre next door.

Here's a quick look at the four plays that opened last weekend. And, yes, three of the four are short, one- or two-actor shows. Yes, OSF is on its way back, but that doesn't mean the production budget has fully recovered just yet.

#### *Macbeth*

In the Angus Bowmer Theatre through Oct. 12.

*Macbeth* recalls the old days of OSF at its best. Director Evren Odciken infuses Shakespeare's tragedy of power, lust and betrayal with contemporary energy without the hip pandering that causes traditionalists' teeth to grind. The actual play is all there, but it's presented with the force and sensibility of a Hollywood horror film, perhaps one based on Stephen King. There's music, there's dance, there's sword fighting and there's comic relief. The three witches nearly steal the two-hour, forty-

five-minute show, though Kevin Kennerly and Erica Sullivan do journeyman work as Macbeth and Lady Macbeth.

The three other productions that opened the new season are all shorter — one runs 90 minutes and two time out at 55 minutes each — with tiny casts, perfect for OSF's tight budget.

*Shakespeare and the Alchemy of Gender*  
In the small Thomas Theatre through May 4.

Lisa Wolpe's moving but disorganized tale, presented on an empty stage, lacks dramatic structure and comes across for much of its 55-minute run time as an unusually animated lecture on the Holocaust's impact on her family, her abusive stepfather and gender roles in Shakespeare as well as in her own life.

Gradually, though, it becomes clear that the foundation story here is that of her late father, Hans Max Joachim Wolpe, a German Jew who fought, undercover, on the side of the Allies in World War II. He was decorated by the Canadian military, but went on to commit suicide — as many of her close relatives had done — when Wolpe herself was a child of four.

She's been touring this show around the U.S. and internationally for a decade. It's worth seeing, if only for Wolpe's sad story of learning to present herself as male — she's played just about every major male

role in the Shakespeare canon — in order to escape her stepfather's vile attentions.

*Smote This: A Comedy About God... and Other Serious SH\*T*

In the Thomas Theatre through May 12.

The other 55-minute one-actor show is also about the death of a father. But *Smote This* is done with unflagging energy by Rodney Gardiner, a 10-season OSF veteran whose physical comedy accents his poignant but often hilarious autobiographical story of coming to terms with his Christian roots after growing up as an undocumented Black immigrant, from the Turks and Caicos Islands, in the Miami of *Miami Vice*. A typical gag: His sometimes scurrilous father kept, right in the family home, his treasured picture of a beautiful, blue-eyed, blonde-haired — Jesus! (rimshot).

From the play's opening funereal moments — where he learns firsthand, at his dad's viewing, that you *really* don't want to touch the body when you say goodbye — Gardiner owns his audience, ping-ponging it between laughter and tears. Go see this one for sure.

#### *Born With Teeth*

In the Angus Bowmer Theatre through Oct. 13.

Liz Duffy Adams' two-actor play, which premiered at Alley Theatre in Houston in 2022, imagines the real life Elizabethan playwrights William Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe as they collaborate on Shakespeare's history plays about Henry VI in the back room of a bar, where they trade barbs, hurl insults at each other and fall madly in love. Alex Purcell is perfect as the amoral, egotistical Marlowe, and sometimes overpowers Bradley James Tejada's more-sensitive but well-acted Shakespeare. Directed here by Rob Melrose, who also directed the Houston premiere, the story is fascinating, woven into the dangerous political landscape of the time (Marlowe was a spy and informer for the government). Shakespeare junkies will love this one, though I'd have been happy with another character or two to provide respite from a 90-minute non-stop conversation between the two geniuses.

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival runs plays through mid-October in its three theaters in downtown Ashland. Six more plays are set to open later in the spring. Advance ticket sales and hotel reservations work far better than just showing up. For tickets and more info, go to OSFAshland.org.



IN WINTER, UMPQUA DUNES' MARSHY PONDS BLOCK THE FINAL PART OF THE ROUTE TO THE BEACH



Photo by William Sullivan

# Dune Episode

HIKE THE COAST'S TALLEST SANDS

By William L. Sullivan

When Frank Herbert wrote *Dune* he was a newspaper reporter in Florence, Oregon. The stark sand world that inspired his sci-fi classic is still orbiting the central Oregon Coast. Even without the physically impossible sand worms that Herbert dreamed up, the Oregon Dunes are inspiringly alien.

First-time visitors often sample the sand at Honeyman State Park or Tahkenitch Creek. Newbie thrill seekers might rent a dune buggy or a sand board. When you're ready to go big, however, hike to the tallest dunes of all — the trackless Sahara of the Umpqua Dunes.

No off-road vehicles disturb the immense quiet here. Although the hike from Eel Creek to the beach begins

and ends on marked paths, most of the 2.7-mile route crosses a stark, trackless dunescape of wind-rippled sand.

If you don't have a Forest Service parking pass for your car, stop in Reedsport to buy one at the Oregon Dunes information center where Highway 38 meets Highway 101. Then drive Highway 101 south of town 11 miles. Beyond the Eel Creek Campground 0.2 miles — between mileposts 122 and 123 — turn right into the John Dellenback Trailhead. Dellenback was the U.S. congressman who played a key role in designating the Oregon Dunes as a National Recreation Area. Today his daughter Barbara Dellenback is a familiar voice on KLCC.

The trail to the dunes starts at a signboard on the right, crosses Eel Creek on an 80-foot bridge, and launches into a Douglas-fir forest with evergreen huckleberries and 30-foot-tall rhododendrons.

This is actually an ancient sand dune, overgrown with woods. Ignore a side trail to the left (the return of an easy one-mile loop option). Then cross a paved campground road at the 0.3-mile mark and continue 0.2 miles up into the woods to the start of open dunes.

For the easy loop back to your car, keep left across the sand 200 feet to find the return trail through the woods. If you're headed for the ocean beach, however, the only markers guiding the way are infrequent, blue-banded posts.

A good choice is to simply climb the long tall dune in front of you. This is an oblique dune, named because it forms at an angle to the wind. Constantly moving, oblique dunes can be hundreds of feet tall and over a mile long. The sandy troughs on either side of this one have beachgrass, dwarf blue lupine, and an occasional marshy pool.

Follow the long dune's crest nearly a mile toward a tree island — a forested hill bypassed by the shifting sand. Skirt the tree island's right-hand edge and continue straight half a mile to a hiker-symbol sign at the line of trees marking the edge of the deflation plain. Winds off the ocean have stripped this plain down to wet sand, allowing grass, shrubs and trees to sprout.

In summer you can follow the sign's arrow to the right along the tree line for 0.2 miles and then turn left at another sign for 0.5 miles through the woods to the ocean beach.

This time of year, however, the entire deflation plain is a marshy lake extending everywhere into the woods and dunes. Theoretically, you could wade through this cold lake for half a mile, perhaps with hip waders, to reach the beach. Realistically, you're going to turn back here.

Before you get mad at me for leading you on a hike that does not reach the ocean, let me explain. The beach is OK, but it's just a beach. The dunes are the main event here — and they're actually more interesting to explore in spring, when they're dotted with surprising ponds. Rainwater seeps out of the sand, eroding sinuous hollows. The dunes retaliate by burying ponds, forests and trail posts.

If you're still sour about missing out on the beach, climb one of the dunes. From the top you'll see a blue horizon with white surf. On a clear day, look for the long shoulder of Cape Arago jutting out to sea to the south.

Is it possible to get lost? Yes, but you can always hear the roar of the ocean to the west. Your car is in the opposite direction. The big tree island is another good landmark. From there, if you head directly away from the ocean toward a distant water tank on a forested hill far inland, you should start seeing footprints leading to the Dellenback Trailhead.

And if that doesn't work, simply stomp on the sand three times. With any luck, one of Herbert's giant sand worms will give you a lift to your spaceship.

*William L. Sullivan is the author of 23 books, including The Ship In The Woods and the updated 100 Hikes Series For Oregon. Learn more at [OregonHiking.com](http://OregonHiking.com).*

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# FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

BY ROB BREZSNY

**ARIES** (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Aries author Eric G. Wilson claims, "Darker emotional states — doubt, confusion, alienation, despair — inspire a deeper and more durable experience of the sacred than contentment does." I disagree. I know for a fact that an exquisite embrace of life's holiness is equally possible through luminous joy and boisterous triumph and exultant breakthroughs. Propagandists of the supposed potency of misery are stuck in a habit of mind that's endemic to the part of civilization that's rotting and dying. In any case, Aries, I'm pleased to tell you that in the coming weeks, you will have abundant opportunities to glide into sacred awareness on the strength of your lust for life and joie de vivre.

**TAURUS** (APRIL 20-MAY 20): Will humans succeed in halting the decimation of the environment? Will we neutralize the power of fundamentalism as it fights to quash our imaginations and limit our freedoms? Will we outflank and outlast the authoritarians that threaten democracy? Sorry I'm asking you to think about sad realities. But now is an excellent time for you to ponder the world we are creating for our descendants — and resolve to do something in loving service to the future. Meditate on the riddle from Lewis Carroll's book *Through the Looking Glass*: "It's a poor sort of memory that only works backwards."

**GEMINI** (MAY 21-JUNE 20): The genius polymath Galileo Galilei (1564-1642) contributed much treasure to science and engineering. One encyclopedia sums up his legacy: "He was the father of observational astronomy, modern-era classical physics, the scientific method and modern science." Unfortunately, many of Galileo's ideas conflicted with the teachings of Catholicism. The church fathers hounded him for years, even arresting him and putting him on trial. The Vatican eventually apologized, though not until 350 years after Galileo died. I expect that you, too, will generate many new approaches and possibilities in the coming months, Gemini — not Galileo level, of course, but still: sufficiently unprecedented to rouse the resistance of conventional wisdom. I suspect you won't have to wait long to be vindicated, however.

**CANCER** (JUNE 21-JULY 22): Now would be a perfect time to prove your love. How? You might begin by being extra considerate, sensitive, sweet and tender. I hope you will add sublime, scintillating touches, too. Maybe you will tell your beloved allies beautiful truths about themselves — revelations that make them feel deeply understood and appreciated. Maybe you will give them gifts or blessings they have wanted for a long time but never managed to get for themselves. It's possible you will serenade them with their favorite songs or write a poem or story about them or buy them a symbol that inspires their spiritual quest. To climax all your kindness, perhaps you will describe the ways they have changed your life for the better.

**LEO** (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Leo naturalist and ornithologist William Henry Hudson (1841-1922) said, "I am not a lover of lawns. Rather would I see daisies in their thousands, ground ivy, hawkweed and dandelions with splendid flowers and fairy down, than the too-well-tended lawn." I encourage you to adopt his attitude toward everything in your life for the next few weeks. Always opt for unruly beauty over tidy regimentation. Choose lush vitality over pruned efficiency. Blend your fate with influences that exult in creative expressiveness, genial fertility and deep feelings. (PS: Cultural critic Michael Pollan says, "A lawn is nature under totalitarian rule.")

**VIRGO** (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): I praise and celebrate you for your skills at helping other people access their resources and activate their potential. I hope you are rewarded well for your gorgeous service. If you are not, please figure out how to correct the problem in the coming months. If you are feeling extra bold, consider these two additional assignments: 1. Upgrade your skills at helping yourself access your own resources and activate your own potential. 2. Be forthright and straightforward in asking the people you help to help you.

**LIBRA** (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): I don't regard a solar eclipse as a bad omen. On the contrary, I believe it may purge and cleanse stale old karma. On some occasions, I have seen it flush away emotional debts and debris that have been accumulating for years. So how shall we interpret the total solar eclipse that will electrify your astrological house of intimate togetherness in the coming days? I think it's a favorable time to be brave and daring as you upgrade your best relationships. What habits and patterns are you ready to reinvent and reconfigure? What new approaches are you willing to experiment with?

**SCORPIO** (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): At your best, you Scorpios are not invasive manipulators. Rather, you are catalysts. You are instigators of transformation, resurrectors of dead energy, awakeners of numb minds. The people you influence may not be aware that they long to draw on your influence. They may think you are somehow imposing it on them when, in fact, you are simply being your genuine, intense self and they are reaching out to absorb your unruly healing. In the coming weeks, please keep in mind what I've said here.

**SAGITTARIUS** (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): In my astrological opinion, it's prime time for you to shower big wild favors on your beautiful self. Get the fun underway with a period of rigorous self-care: a physical check-up, perhaps, and visits with the dentist, therapist, hair stylist and acupuncturist. Try new healing agents and seek precise magic that enhances and uplifts your energy. I trust you will also call on luxurious indulgences like a massage, a psychic reading, gourmet meals, an emotionally potent movie, exciting new music and long, slow love-making. Anything else, Sagittarius? Make a list and carry out these tasks with the same verve and determination you would give to any important task.

**CAPRICORN** (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): The coming days will be a favorable time for you to wrestle with an angel or play chess with a devil. You will have extraordinary power in any showdown or collaboration with spiritual forces. Your practical intelligence will serve you well in encounters with non-rational enigmas and supernatural riddles. Here's a hot tip: Never assume that any being, human or divine, is holier or wiser than you. You will have a special knack for finding compassionate solutions to address even the knottiest dilemmas.

**AQUARIUS** (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): Your featured organ of the month is your nose. This may sound beyond the scope of predictable possibilities, but I'm serious: You will make robust decisions and discriminating choices if you get your sniffer fully involved. So I advise you to favor and explore whatever smells good. Cultivate a nuanced appreciation for what aromas can reveal. If there's a hint of a stink or an odd tang, go elsewhere. The saying "follow your nose" is especially applicable. PS: I recommend you take steps to expose yourself to a wide array of scents that energize you and boost your mood.

**PISCES** (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): When is the best time to ask for a raise or an increase in benefits? Can astrology reveal favorable periods for being aggressive about getting more of what you want? In the system I use, the time that's 30 to 60 days after your birthday is most likely to generate good results. Another phase is 210 to 240 days after your birthday. Keep in mind that these estimates may be partly fanciful and playful and mythical. But then in my philosophy, fanciful and playful and mythical actions have an honored place. Self-fulfilling prophecies are more likely to be fulfilled if you regard them as fun experiments rather than serious, literal rules.

Homework: Imagine that everything and every place in your life is holy. Newsletter: FreeWillAstrology.

Go to RealAstrology.com

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